Dissatisfaction over signing Dunkel Draft

5330. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the opposition parties are making a lot of hue and cry over singing of the Dunkel Draft under the GATT;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) what are the merits and demerits of singing of Dunkel Draft under GATT accord;

(d) whether Government propose to propogate among the masses of the country about the merits of the Dunkel Draft through an effective media and offset the propaganda of the opposition parties about the demerits of the Dunkel Draft, if any, about which the people of India in general and agriculturists in particular are in total darkness; and

(e) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points of criticism relate to the possible reduction in agricultural subsidies, minimum market access commitments, adverse effects on the public distribution system as a result of the Agreement on agriculture; patenting of seeds and increase in the prices of medicines as a result of the Agreement on TRIPs; and the entry of multinationals into all areas of the economy as a consequence of the Agreement on TRIMs and the back-loading of the textiles Agreement.

(c) The Uruguay Round results will establish a rule-based multinational trading system with expanded coverage. This will on the whole be advantageous to us in increasing our exports. There will be increased market access opportunities for Indian goods as a result of lowering of tariffs and the phase out of Multi Fibre Agreement. The Services Agreement would also provide export opportunities. The rules governing the multilateral trading system have been strengthened. Though we will be required to amend our patents regime, there are safeguards in the Agreement against the abuse of patent rights by the right holder. The use of price control measures is also not prohibited. We have flexibility to devise our own sui generis system of plant variety protection with provisions for farmers and researcher rights. In the area of agriculture, our development and public welfare policies will not be constrained.

(d) and (e) Government is educating people and removing misapprehensions about the Uruguay Round Agreement through the media.

Non-implementation of Dhanbad Industrial Tribunal Award in favour of Tribal Workers of BCCL

5331. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dhanbad Industrial Tribunal No. I gave award in favour of the tribal workers of Area VI of BCCL early two years ago and if so, the facts in detail;

(b) whether it is a fact that the award has not yet been implemented though it was statutory within a month and if so, reasons thereof;